

New Fire Alarm Network Being Installed

Torrance

Press-Herald

Published semi-weekly Wednesday and Sunday by King Williams Press, Inc. Entered as second class matter January 30, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, Under act of March 3, 1879.

UNEQUALLED CIRCULATION AND EDITORIAL COVERAGE

- Torrance
- East Torrance
- Lomita
- Carson
- Harbor City
- Redondo Beach

To Reach Us By Phone

If you miss your copy of the Press-Herald, call the CIRCULATION OFFICE at DA 5-1512

OTHER PHONES:

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DA 5-6061
 ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT DA 5-6061
 WOMEN'S NEWS DA 5-6381
 GENERAL NEWS DA 5-6061

Series II, Volume III, No. 1



3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, California — Sunday, July 3, 1966

10c Per Copy By Carrier 50c Per Month By Mail \$12 Per Year

16 PAGES



FIRE ALARM SYSTEM . . . Councilman Ken Miller, chairman of the council's Police and Fire Committee, and Fire Chief J. J. Benner inspect one of the new telephone fire alarm boxes being installed in the city. With them is H. P. Humphreys, special services consultant with Pacific Telephone Co. The new system, being installed by Pacific and General Telephone Companies, includes 100 alarm boxes. It will be put into service about Aug. 1. (Press-Herald Photo)

Telephone Alarm System To be Operational Soon

Installation of the first phase of a city-wide network of fire alarm call boxes is expected to be completed about Aug. 1, Fire Chief J. J. Benner announced Friday.

The system, operated by telephone, is being installed by Pacific and General Telephone Companies for the city. Benner said 100 bright red call boxes will be located strategically throughout the city. Sixty-two of the boxes are being installed by Pacific Telephone Co., while General Telephone Co. is installing the remaining 38 boxes.

EACH CALL box will be wired directly to the Torrance Fire Department's dispatch center, located at the main fire station, 1701 S. Crenshaw Blvd. The center, designed and installed by Pacific, includes a specially

designed switchboard and an emergency power supply. Benner said the system can be expected to "save community property owners thousands of dollars in fire insurance annually," as well as provide direct communications between persons reporting a fire and fire department dispatchers.

Jim Leggett, local manager for Pacific, said the boxes are simple to operate. "All a person has to do when he reports a fire is to open the door of the box and left the telephone receiver." A light on the switchboard tells the dispatcher the location of the box.

AFTER THE person describes the nature of the fire, the dispatcher can send the designed and installed by Pacific, includes a specially

Phases two and three of the new system provide for additional call boxes to be installed near schools and other important locations in the city, Benner said.

The chief warned against misuse of the telephone alarm system. He said an automatic device records the date, time, and location of the call box immediately after the receiver is picked up. In addition, a tape recording automatically is made of each incoming call.

False reporting or misuse of the telephone alarm system is punishable under state and city law, Benner warned. Normally, such a crime is a misdemeanor, but it becomes a felony if any person is injured as a result of a false call.

Fireworks Blamed for 50 Fires in Four Days

Major Damage Caused at One Riviera Home

Fireworks were blamed for some 50 fires throughout the city as of early yesterday, the Torrance Fire Department reported.

While most of the fires involved nothing more than

(Picture on page 2)

weeds and dry grass, five homes were damaged — one of them extensively—in the series of blazes.

One fireman has been injured and two juveniles arrested as a result of the four-day series of blazes which began June 28—the day fireworks stands were opened throughout the city.

MOST SEVERE damage was reported Wednesday afternoon when fireworks touched off a fire on the roof of the Leslie Lovell home at 328 Via Colusa. Damage was estimated at \$20,000. The blaze was reported shortly after 2 p.m. and was the first of four fires in the Riviera section.

During the afternoon other fires were reported at 340 Via Colusa, 305 Camino de las Colinas, and 231 Camino de las Colinas. Damage to all three homes was between \$100 and \$200.

A fifth residential fire was reported Friday afternoon at 406 Camino de Encanto. Damage was minor.

FIREMEN have responded to 45 grass fires during the four-day period. Largest number of fires was reported Friday, when 17 separate blazes—all touched off by the same geyser-type fireworks—were logged.

Fireman Harlan Freskes, 26, was injured Wednesday afternoon while fighting the fire at the Lovell home. Freskes was standing on the roof when it gave way. He sustained back injuries. Freskes was treated and released.

from duty for three or four days.

Battalion Chief Ray Flagg told the Press-Herald yesterday that 6,327 man-hours had been recorded by fire department personnel in fighting the fireworks-caused blazes. That total, Flagg said, does not include time involved in Friday's alarms.

FLAGG ALSO said the Fire Prevention Bureau had acted to remove the fireworks responsible for the blazes from the market. The small device, one of the less expensive types, can easily be converted into a missile-like object, Flagg said.

Two juveniles, an 11-year-old boy and his 12-year-old companion, were arrested Wednesday when they were seen throwing lighted fireworks onto the roof of an apartment building in the Riviera area. The youths reportedly admitted setting one fire, but denied knowledge of the others. Both were released to their parents.

Largest of the grass fires occurred at Crenshaw Boulevard and 164th Street. Firemen, assisted by units from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, extinguished the flames in about 20 minutes.

Entertainment Permit Denied By Councilmen

The City Council Wednesday denied an appeal for an entertainment permit at the Bounty Room bar, 4419 Torrance Blvd.

The appeal was filed by Don Barthelemy, owner of the bar. The city's License Review Board previously had denied Barthelemy's application for the permit.

Wednesday's action followed a formal public hearing. The vote was unanimous.

It's Time to Celebrate . . .

Government offices, banks, and most other firms in the city will be closed tomorrow in observance of Independence Day. The Press-Herald offices will be closed, but no change in news or advertising deadlines is made. City rubbish collection crews will make normal Monday pickups, but city officials have asked residents to put their trash on the curb by 8 a.m. to facilitate collections.

Board Meeting Delayed . . .

The Torrance Board of Education will convene at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday for its regular meeting. The board, which normally meets on the first and third Monday each month, will meet Tuesday this week because of the Independence Day holiday.

Councilmen to Convene . . .

Torrance City Councilmen will meet Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. for their regular weekly session. One hearing is scheduled during the meeting. It involves a change of zone on property located on the northeast corner of Hawthorne Boulevard and 230th Street. Owners of the property, now zoned R-3 and C-2, are asking that the entire parcel be zoned C-3.

Burglar Takes Jewelry

Accordion, Golf Clubs Missing

Jewelry, clothing, an accordion, and golf clubs—worth more than \$2,500—were taken from the home of Arthur Santo Friday by a burglar who entered through the bathroom window.

Santo, who lives at 18224 Fairview Ave., told police the theft occurred while he was at work. Police said a bathroom window which had been left open provided the burglar with entrance to the home.

Taken were a man's ring worth about \$300, a \$1,100 accordion, golf clubs worth \$225, and Mrs. Santo's wedding and engagement rings, valued at \$650. Santo also reported \$100 worth of coins and about \$135 in clothing missing.

A 17-YEAR-OLD North Torrance youth reported two guns and a \$500 coin collection missing Friday. Robert H. Becker III of 18309 Purche Ave. told his father he last saw the missing items Thursday.

The elder Becker told Torrance Police a .410 shotgun and a .22-calibre rifle were taken, along with a coin collection with a face value of about \$500.

Police also were investigating reports of five thefts from cars in the area. Burglars removed stereo tape recorders from the cars.



DING-DONG-BOOM! . . . These are the sounds that will typify another Fourth of July celebration in Torrance, as shown by 8-year-old Lorie Higgins and her brother, Joey, who is 3. The remainder of what all the noise is about is kept silently but strongly in the background.

Three-Car Crash Leaves One Dead

A Redondo Beach man was killed Thursday evening in a three-car collision on 190th Street near the Torrance-Redondo Beach boundary.

Dead is Donald M. Reith, 31, of 2305 Vanderbilt Lane. Reith died about 9:30 p.m. A passenger in the Reith car, Kathleen A. Swinell, 26, who gave the same Vanderbilt Lane address, was injured in the crash.

Police said the Reith vehicle, southbound on Meyer Lane, collided with a car at 190th Street, then struck a second car after being turned around. Driver of the second car, Jane J. Omans, 51, of 431 W. Sierra Vista, Redondo Beach, suffered minor injuries. She told police she would seek private medical attention.

THE DRIVER of the third car, Dolores L. DeVito of San Pedro, was not injured.

Reith was thrown from his car. He was dead on arrival at Little Company of Mary Hospital.

Two persons sustained minor injuries in separate crashes Friday. Both said they would seek private medical attention.

Linda C. Palmer, 25, of Manhattan Beach, sustained cuts on her legs when her car, traveling east on Carson Street, struck a car driven by Linda L. Roberts, 16, of 1626 Amapola Ave.

POLICE SAID Miss Roberts was waiting to complete a

left turn at the Carson Street-Amapola intersection when she was hit from behind. The accident occurred about 5:20 p.m.

Robert J. Centers, 21, of 19408 Entradero St., suffered a cut above one eye about 9:15 p.m. Friday when she was involved in a three-car accident at Carson Street just east of Plaza del Amo.

Police said Centers apparently hit a parked car at 2321 W. Carson St., then struck a car driven by Jose A. Reyes, 40, of 20821 Margaret St. Reyes, who was traveling east on Carson Street, was uninjured.

Several other minor traffic accidents were reported Friday afternoon and evening, police reported. No other injuries were noted.

Thief Takes Ingredients For Party

Residents of a Torrance apartment building were left without some of the ingredients for their Fourth of July party Friday night by a burglar who entered the building's social room.

Several bottles of "firewater" were taken from an apartment building at 20900 Anza Ave.

Among the missing bottles were four fifths of champagne, a fifth of gin, and two fifths of bourbon.

Narcotics Investigation Ends with Four Arrests

Three 19-year-old Torrance youths and a 16-year-old West High student were arrested Friday by Torrance Police, ending a five-week investigation into the sale of marijuana in the Torrance area.

Arrested Friday were: Thomas Eugene Harris, 19, of 3101 Opal St., Phillip Anderson, 19, of 4530 W. 191st St., and John Van Leuvan, 19, of 20359 Anza Ave.

Harris, Anderson, and the juvenile were charged with

conspiracy to sell narcotics and the sale of marijuana. Van Leuvan was held on a charge of furnishing a narcotic drug.

The four were arrested Friday under warrants issued by South Bay Municipal Court Judge Raymond Choate. Bail for the three 19-year-olds was set at \$8,250 each.

The arrests ended an undercover investigation which Torrance narcotics officers said had been under way for five weeks.

Schidler Nominated for New Federal Court Post

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge John Schidler of Torrance is up for appointment to a new federal judgeship, it was announced here Wednesday.

He has been recommended to President Johnson as federal court appointee by the California Democratic House Delegation and by Gov. Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, and would fill one of three new Southern California judgeships established by Congress in April.

Schidler, of 317 Camino de las Colinas, has been on the bench for about 25 years, starting as a city judge in Torrance. He later became judge of the old Gardena justice court and was a South Bay Municipal Court judge before his appointment to the Superior Court bench in November, 1960. He also was a member of the Torrance Board of Education.

President Johnson is not expected to announce his nominee for about a month.



MEANWHILE . . . Back at the fire station, C. W. Brennan, a fire inspector with the Torrance Fire Department, takes a look at the new switchboard installed as part of the fire alarm system. The switchboard gives dispatchers instant contact with persons reporting fires. The new board also is equipped with automatic devices to record calls. (Press-Herald Photo)